

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated July 14, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 6, 8 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5 and 10-20 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Related Art ("Related Art") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,295,711, issued to Tanaka et al. (hereafter "Tanaka"). Additionally, claims 6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Related Art ("Related Art") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,151,689, issued to Kabuto et al (hereafter "Kabuto"). Applicants have cancelled claims 6, 8 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Thus, the rejections are rendered moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

Application No.: 09/892,883
Amendment dated October 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated July 14, 2004

Docket No.: 8733.426.00

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: October 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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